

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 AID-01 SS-07 NSC-06 /026 W

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R 221521Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0143

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USCINCEUR

UNCLAS ATHENS 6406

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP, PFOR, GR, US

SUBJ: CODEL PELL; PRESS CONFERENCE

1. ON AUGUST 21 AS SENATOR PELL CONCLUDED HIS VISIT TO GREECE HE HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE. IN HIS INTRODUCTORY REMARKS HE EXPRESSED HIS ADMIRATION FOR GREECE AND DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS A "HELLENOPHILE". HE ALSO EXPRESSED "DELIGHT AND THANKS" TO PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS FOR HAVING SUGGESTED THAT HE COME TO GREECE.

2. THE SENATOR WAS QUESTIONED ABOUT HIS REMARKS IN CYPRUS THAT BOTH THE GREEK AND TURKISH SIDES MUST MAKE CONCESSIONS TO SOLVE THE CYPRUS ISSUE. HE WAS ASKED WHAT CONCESSIONS DOES HE THINK THE GREEK SIDE COULD MAKE
THE SENATOR REPLIED THAT IN HIS VIEW A SETTLEMENT OF THE CYPRUS ISSUE WOULD INCLUDE "A BIZONAL CONCEPT, SOME SORT OF WEAK FEDERAL/CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, SOME KIND OF GUARANTEES OF EVENNESS OF DISTRIBUTION OF THE POLICY-MAKING JOBS AT THE TOP LEVEL AND THEN TOUGH NEGOTIATIONS ON HOW MUCH LAND THE TURKS WILL GIVE UP AND HOW MANY GREEK REFUGEES WILL BE RESETTLED IN THE TURKISH ZONE... THAT'S REMAINING. AND THIS IS WHERE BOTH SIDES MUST "MAKE CONCESSIONS".

3. THE SENATOR ALSO INDICATED HIS BELIEF THAT THE POSITIONS ARE TOO FAR APART FOR AGREEMENT ON CYPRUS TO EMERGE IN EARLY SEPTEMBER.

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4. ASKED ABOUT THE LEGISLATIVE FUTURE OF THE TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO, THE SENATOR RECALLED HIS OWN POSITION IN FAVOR OF THE EMBARGO. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE POSITION OF THOSE LIKE HIMSELF WHO SUPPORT THE EMBARGO "HAS BEEN ERODED, AND I AM NOT CONFIDENT OF SUCCESS IN THIS REGARD WHEN THE VOTE COMES."

5. QUERIED AS TO WHETHER HE WOULD THEREFORE CONCLUDE THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER WAS BECOMING STRONGER VIS-A-VIS THE CONGRESS, THE SENATOR REPLIED, "NO, I THINK IT IS UP TO YOUR FRIENDS IN AMERICA TO REDOUBLE THEIR EFFORTS."

6. ASKED FOR HIS VIEWS ON THE DISPUTE BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY OVER THE AEGEAN, THE SENATOR EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT THE ISSUE IS GOING TO BE REFERRED TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE. HE ASKED THAT IT BE LEFT TO THE COURT TO MAKE THE DECISION ON THE MERITS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES' POSITION. HE ALSO NOTED AS A "FRIEND OF GREECE" THAT THERE IS A "PROBLEM" BECAUSE "SO MANY OF YOUR ISLANDS ARE ON THE TURKISH CONTINENTAL SHELF."

7. COMMENT: THE GREEK PRESS GAVE MODERATE COVERAGE TO SENATOR PELL'S REMARKS. ATHENS PAPERS GENERALLY INTERPRETED THE SENATOR'S REMARKS AS SUPPORTIVE OF TURKISH POSITIONS, AN INTERPRETATION CAPSULED BY ONE HEADLINE:
"TURKOPHILE DECLARATIONS BY A PHILHELLENE SENATOR."
KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, ARMS, PRESS CONFERENCES, POLITICAL SITUATION, EMBARGOES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ATHENS06406
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750291-1096
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750824/aaaaauwl.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 FEB 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 FEB 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <13 JAN 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL PELL: PRESS CONFERENCE
TAGS: OREP, PFOR, GR, US, (PELL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006